



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, January 8, 2014
Thomas C. Passios Building Room #13 - 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

School Committee
Gregory Berthiaume
Michael Mackin
Colleen Shapiro
Brendan Grady
Todd Blake

Superintendent
Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary
Liz Petersen

Student Representative

Guests

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- * Call to Order – Dr. Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
 - * Chair's Report – Dr. Berthiaume informed everyone that the meeting was being recorded and will be made public. Dr. Berthiaume thanked the community for coming out to the Special Town Meeting on January 7, 2014 and supporting the schools. He reminded everyone that there was an opportunity to vote on Saturday, January 11, 2014.
 - * Review and Approve Minutes – No minutes at the present time to approve, as a new recording secretary has not been hired.
 - * Review and Approve Warrants – Warrants were on the table for signatures.
 - * Superintendent's Report
 - Recording Secretary Position- Postings have gone out for a 5-10 hour position for recording secretary. The decision had been made to separate this position from the administrative secretary to the superintendent.
 - Laura Rudy, Teacher of the ACE program at LHS has retired before the holiday break. She was replaced by Kimberly Jones, a Lunenburg resident and LHS graduate who has an extensive special education background.
 - Update of school programs- Tiger Program coming to schools, rescheduled at THMS from 12/19 to 2/7.
 - A training is scheduled at THMS for teachers to attend a blended workshop for Great Books on February 11, 2014. On February 12th, coaching for Great Books will be given to teachers during PD Day.
 - At THMS the Tournament of Science will be presented to students from a donation made possible through the Myles for Miles fundraiser. Lunenburg Cable Access will film this event.
 - * School Building Committee Report – Mr. Mackin reported that it was gratifying to see 455 community members attend the Special Town Meeting. He looks forward to the ballot vote on Saturday, February 11th from 7-5pm at T.C. Passios Elementary School. There will be a scheduled School Building committee meeting next Wednesday, January 15, 2014.

* Public Comment -

* Old Business

- a. Superintendent Calmes spoke to a recent announcement from the DESE regarding Circuit Breaker, This year the district will receive \$14,230 less in Circuit Breaker than we had calculated on the prior allocation since the average per pupil expenditure upon which the calculation is made increased. This results in a lower amount coming from the State and requires an –increase in that same amount in the private tuition line.
- b. Superintendent Calmes spoke to new budget spreadsheets that the Town Manager, Kerry Spiedel, had provided to all town department heads. Superintendent Calmes commented that Ms. Spiedel had offered to attend a school committee meeting to address any budget questions. Dr. Berthiaume asked when the budget would be presented to the Selectmen, and Superintendent Calmes commented that it would be before February break.
- c. Transportation Contract- Even though there was some anxiety surrounding the Atlantic Express bankruptcy, Superintendent Calmes spoke to the fact of how gracious everyone had been in handling the situation, so there had been no interruption in transportation for the students. Van Pool had been very responsive to concerns from parents of late buses, and took care of any concerns in a timely fashion. There were 279 days remaining in the three year contract with Atlantic Express. The bid was written with the option of extending the contract for another year after the 279 days. The rates provided by DEE Bus Service represent a \$10,000 savings over Atlantic Express. Wait time for bussing of extracurricular activities was the only area affected with an increase from \$50/hr previously to \$60/hr currently. Dr. Berthiaume asked how many bidders there had been, and Superintendent Calmes commented that there DEE was the sole bidder for regular education transportation, and there were 2 bidders for special education. Superintendent Calmes was asked if the bus drivers were retained and she commented that they had kept all of the same drivers except for special education routes where 2 of the 4 personnel were retained. Superintendent Calmes thanked Ms. Sandra Curley and Mr. John Londa for all of their help with getting the bid out, as well as Dr. Berthiaume for coming after work to sign the contract.
- d. Advisory Committee for Acceptance and Diversity- Dr. Berthiaume spoke his opinion about how alternates should be used within the committee. Discussion with school committee members ensued, and a motion was made by Mr. Mackin that for the purposes of quorum, alternates will only be used if the committee member representative is absent and will only vote if the committee member is absent. Motion seconded by Dr. Berthiaume. Vote: Unanimous

* New Business

- a. Donations- Exxon(Mike's) Mobil Gas Station gave \$500 which is traditionally rotated to different schools within the district and used for technology purposes. Superintendent Calmes recommended to the School Committee to accept this donation. The Primary School Box Tops for Education Program netted \$2146.20 and a check was deposited to that school's gift account The PTO was thanked for helping to run this program. A motion to accept these donations was brought forward by Mr. Mackin. Dr. Berthiaume seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous
- b. Additions to Agenda: These items were brought forth by Dr. Berthiaume- Negotiations Team for Custodial Negotiations, and Setting Preschool Tuition Rates for FY15-17.
- c. Preschool Tuition Rates: Ms. Elaine Blaisdell, Principal of the Lunenburg Primary School gave a short presentation as to the integrated and substantially separate preschool program that runs at the Primary School currently. There are 50 preschool students currently that utilize this program. From 2011-2014 the daily rate for these students was \$18.25. Ms. Blaisdell is recommending an increase for FY15-17 to \$18.75. This represents a 2.7% increase. When necessary, financial assistance is provided to parents through a state based formula for eligibility. Ms. Blaisdell provided a chart of rates for preschool programs in surrounding towns for comparison. Our preschool program was \$10 lower than several other programs. A question by Mr. Mackin involved a discussion surrounding our district responsibility in providing a preschool program. Superintendent Calmes explained that the district is responsible for providing a program for our students with disabilities, but universal preschool is not funded by the State. Ms. Blaisdell gave all current dates for the preschool lottery registration as well as kindergarten registration, and the requirements of both. Dr. Berthiaume moved to accept the preschool tuition rates. Ms. Shapiro seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous

- d. Negotiating Team- Superintendent Calmes stated that the group was ready to enter negotiations. Superintendent Calmes indicated that she along with Sandra Curley and John Londa could negotiate on behalf of the Committee as was done in the past unless someone for the Committee also wanted to participate. School Committee members discussed this and all declined.

* Public Comment

* Reports

- a. Finance Committee – The next meeting is tomorrow night, Dr. Berthiaume cannot attend
- b. School Councils –
- c. PTO – Ms. Shapiro said they are meeting on Monday night.
- d. Policy Sub-Committee-Has not met yet.
- e. Capital Planning Committee – Ms. Shapiro reported that the Committee is finished with prioritizing the requests and has forwarded their recommendations to Town Manager. They are done with meetings until the Town budget is presented.
- f. Wellness Advisory Committee
- g. PAC/SAL – Ms. Shapiro stated that they will meet on Friday.
- h. Building Reuse Committee
- i. Advisory Committee for Acceptance and Diversity- Dr. Berthiaume stated they will meet tomorrow.

- * Items for Future Discussion- Dr. Berthiaume discussed scheduling workshops at the next meeting in reference to goals. Superintendent Calmes stated that the calendar committee was being formed. Ms. Shapiro stressed the importance of sharing the proposed calendar with parents for feedback. .

* Executive Session- None.

- * Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz Petersen